

Dear Senator Bye, Representative Walker, Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and Members of the Secondary Education Sub-committee:

My name is Tara Leach. I am emailing my concerns about the proposed State budget cuts to Youth and Service Bureaus across the State for the Testimony on March 3, 5pm for the Appropriations Secondary Education Sub-committee.

My husband and I live in Clinton and have 3 children. The children have tried sports as extra curricular activities but have flourished MOST with their activities in the Clinton YSB programs they have attended. My oldest son is now a Mentor in the Fantastic Friends Program and the Summer Partners Program in Clinton. He has gained much responsibility by being responsible for another young child. It has given him the confidence to try new tasks. I believe this will also help him gain life long skills.

My younger son has grown so much by having to listen to other older mentors and the adults who run the program. He has also attended counseling at CYFSB and has become more responsible for his behaviors that we have been working on the past 3 1/2 yrs.

My daughter has probably grown the most while attending the programs thru CYFSB. She was a very shy/quiet young lady and EVERYONE in her circle (school/teachers, other school staff, friends, family) have noticed that she has become more independent and confident in the past few yrs. I give a lot of

thanks to the Youth programs at CYFSB. We have come a long way with her.

If the budget made drastic cuts to the Youth Service Bureau in Clinton, it would negatively impact my whole family! I urge you to reconsider this very sensitive matter!

Sincerely,

Tara L. Leach